

**STATEMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE
PREPARATORY COMMISSION FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR
TEST-BAN TREATY ORGANIZATION
TO THE
44th REGULAR SESSION OF THE IAEA GENERAL CONFERENCE
VIENNA, 19 SEPTEMBER 2000**

Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. Thank you, Mr. President, for allowing me this opportunity to talk to you about recent developments regarding the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and implementation of the mandate of the Preparatory Commission for the CTBTO.
2. Since being opened for signature and ratification on 24 September 1996, the Treaty has been signed by 160 countries. In addition, 63 countries have already ratified the Treaty, including 30 of the 44 States listed in Annex 2 to the Treaty whose ratification is needed for its entry into force.
3. Members of the Preparatory Commission and the Provisional Technical Secretariat (PTS) have made efforts to sustain the momentum created around the Article XIV Conference last year (Conference on Facilitating the Early Entry into Force of the CTBT, Vienna, 6-8 October 1999) towards achieving the early entry into force and universality of the Treaty. It is gratifying that the Russian Federation ratified the Treaty at the end of June this year, marking a significant development for advancing the Treaty's early entry into force.
4. In spite of the US Senate vote not to give its advice and consent to the ratification of the treaty last October, we are encouraged by the appointment of the high level task force, led by General John Shalikashvili to work towards a bipartisan approach to ratification of the Treaty in the US Senate, and hope for the success of these efforts.
5. During a visit to China in June this year where I met with the Vice Foreign Minister as well as senior representatives of the legislature, I was informed that ratification was now under consideration in the relevant committee of the National People's Congress.

Mr. President,

6. It augurs well for the goal of sustaining the momentum for the advancement of early entry into force of the Treaty that the 2000 NPT Review Conference affirmed support for the CTBT and welcomed the final declaration adopted at the Article XIV Conference. It is particularly significant that, inter alia, the Review Conference agreed on the importance and urgency of signatures and ratifications, without delay and without conditions and in accordance with constitutional processes, to achieve early entry into force of the CTBT, as well as a moratorium on nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions pending its entry into force. The continued support for the work of the preparatory Commission displayed by States who participated in the Review Conference is greatly appreciated.
7. In addition, the occasion of the Millennium Summit in New York (6 to 8 September 2000) provided a unique opportunity for the promotion of the Treaty. The Twelfth Session of the Preparatory Commission (22-24 August), adopted a decision (CTBT/PC-12/1/Annex V11), calling upon all States that have not yet signed or ratified the Treaty to consider making use of the unique opportunity offered by the Millennium Summit to sign or ratify it. We are pleased that during the Summit, five States signed the Treaty (Guyana, Kiribati, Nauru, Nigeria and Sierra Leone) and two deposited their instruments of ratification (Kiribati and Maldives).

Mr. President,

8. The Preparatory Commission has made significant progress to date in establishing the IMS a global technical verification system to monitor compliance with the Treaty. These achievements are due largely to States Signatories' commitment to the Treaty and their support for the work of the Preparatory Commission. Payment of assessed contributions is one of the important barometers to gauge commitment and support, therefore it is extremely encouraging that to date the collection rate stands at around 92% for 2001) and around 96% for 1999. We are now working on proposals to create a

reasonable and realistic budget, based on a costing process that is programme driven, and gives due consideration to Budget execution, within a realistic financial framework.

9. After 42 months in existence, the PTS has become a fully-fledged international secretariat comprising 242 staff members from 70 countries. The PTS continues to pursue a target of equal gender representation at all levels of the Secretariat and to make every effort to increase the representation of women in the Professional category. To date the percentage of women in the Professional category has reached 26.57%.

10. Thanks to the support of our States Signatories and the hard work of my staff, we have continued to make progress in the development of all components of the CTBT verification regime.

11. Starting with the International Monitoring System (IMS). Our mandate in this regard is to develop a cost-effective global network of 321 monitoring stations located in the 89 countries specified in the Treaty. The monitoring stations have sensors which are capable of detecting, locating and identifying signals generated by a possible nuclear explosion using four complementary technologies: seismology, infrasound, hydroacoustic, and radionuclide monitoring. Data from the stations gets transmitted to our International Data Centre (the IDC) here in Vienna for processing and transmission to States Signatories for final analysis.

12. To date, about 60% of the IMS site surveys are completed and ready for installation work and approximately 20% of the stations are installed and sending data to the IDC. We are also paying special attention to the certification of IMS stations and, to date, three IMS seismic stations, in Canada, Norway and the USA, have been certified.

13. Since 21 February 2000, the IDC has been sending IMS data and IDC products on a test basis to States Signatories who have submitted the information required to establish a secure signatory account for the State. Currently more than 40 States are able to access the data and products.

14. The core of our Global Communications Infrastructure was put in place in 1999, when global satellite coverage was established with the installation of four GCI hubs and a frame-relay infrastructure to link these hubs to the IDC here in Vienna. Five GCI hubs have been installed to date. GCI satellite terminals (VSATs) have been installed at 35 IMS stations, National Data Centres and development sites.

15. In the area of On-site Inspections the elaboration of a draft On-site Inspection (OSI) Co-operational Manual is a priority task for the Preparatory Commission and the PTS. In order to facilitate progress in the elaboration of the draft, the procedure of a group of friends of the OSI Programme Coordinator was initiated to undertake the work.

16. With regard to the procurement of OSI equipment, the first phase of the testing of the passive seismic equipment system is scheduled to commence in October 2000.

17. Confidence-building measures, another element of the global verification regime, are of voluntary nature. The Ninth Session of the Preparatory Commission agreed to establish a database on chemical explosions, for the purpose of creating the basic technical conditions for the implementation of confidence-building measures after the Treaty enters into force.

18. As regards the consultations and clarification, Working Group B, the subsidiary organ of the Preparatory Commission responsible for verification-related matters, considered at its Thirteenth Session (28 August - 8 September 2000) the need for the development of procedures.

Mr. President,

19. The PTS strives continuously to improve its support to the Policy-making Organs of the Preparatory Commission, its officers and to States Signatories. The Experts Communications System (ECS) is one of the mechanisms we have put in place to facilitate efficient and effective participation in the work of the Preparatory Commission. Through the ECS registered users are able to participate in discussions relating to the work of the Preparatory Commission using e-mail and fax facilities from their home countries and to access documents using the Internet. Additionally, we have implemented a new electronic Document Management System, which will later be integrated with an improved ECS.

20. I would like to refer to the relationship agreement between the Preparatory Commission and the United Nations which entered into force upon its approval by the General Assembly in June 2000, thus bringing the Commission into the United Nations family. This agreement has opened the possibility for the PTS to cooperate with the UN programmes and Special Agencies. At present we are negotiating a cooperation agreement with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which will set out a framework for the UNDP to provide operational support services to the Commission. In addition, an arrangement is also being negotiated with the United Nations Secretariat on the use of the United Nations laissez-passer by officials of the Commission. The Preparatory Commission invited States, wherever possible in accordance with their national laws and regulations, to take the steps necessary to recognize the use of the United Nations laissez-passer by officials of the Commission.

21 In conclusion, Mr. President, the Secretariat is implementing its mandate very much in line with the annual work programmes of the Preparatory Commission. We look to the States Signatories to take the necessary political steps to ensure that the CT13T enters into force, so that all the components of the regime can be brought into effect to make our world a safer and more secure place for generations to come.

I thank you.